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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 5

April 11, 1942

COLORADO (March 18).--Series of district conferences throughout State on home food supply program being held by extension workers, with representatives of FSA, AAA, WPA, SCS, Vocational Agriculture invited. Details of Farm Home Food Supply Program discussed and procedure outlined. Publicity campaign being launched emphasizing new aspects of program; leader training meetings to be held in each county; each family to be contacted by leaders and urged to enroll. Certificate of achievement will be awarded by Governor to each family producing 75 percent or more of the farm family's food supply in 1942.

Farmers urged to grow Victory Gardens; produce more pork; increase honey production; increase output of poultry and dairy products. 4-H Club members emphasizing sugar-beet growing. Machinery repair program well under way. Extension Service cooperating with War Board in "Salvage for Victory" program, collecting scrap iron.

CONNECTICUT (April 7).--4-H Victory Corps will include over 7,000 club members and an even larger number nonmembers. Goal of 20,000 announced by governor, who urges young people join, adults volunteer as local leaders. State goal broken down into county goals by club agents. 30,000 enrollment cards, 1,000 mobilization posters, 20,000 Victory Corps buttons, 10 moving-picture trailers, three 15-minute radio transcriptions "4-H Mobilizes" distributed; 10 live-talent broadcasts scheduled.

The Land Army, sponsored by U. S. Employment Service and State Defense Council, registering boys and girls in high schools and preparatory schools for full-time or part-time paid employment on farms. Extension workers members of the committees, and 1 extension editor assigned to Land Army for several days to prepare publication material.

In Victory Garden campaign, policy outlined by extension staff committee endorsed by State Defense Council, Federated Garden Clubs, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, and New Haven and Hartford park departments. Garden clubs establishing community-garden centers at libraries, where garden information and advice available. Women's Division, State Defense Council, enlisting experienced gardeners as advisers on Victory Gardens, to assist extension agents in informing local people. Extension editors assisting Consumers Committee, State Defense Council, in series radio forum programs Sunday afternoons for discussion topics such as letters on sugar rationing, tires, milk distribution, and Victory Gardens from the consumers viewpoint.

IOWA (April 2).--Series of 9 district conferences for county agents conducted; central theme The War Must Be Won. Selection educational cooperators completed; replacement inactive leaders; feed and livestock program discussed. Men educational cooperators now appointed in 86 percent of school districts, with cooperators reaching 80 percent of their neighbors. Concentrating on War Emergency Livestock and Feed Budget prepared by extension to help farmers plan their livestock programs. Every farmer received copy of Keep 'Em Eating, circular containing concrete information on feeding, care, management of livestock and poultry. Special printed house organ for cooperators, Farming for Victory will be issued monthly.

30,000 copies leaflet, We Must Have More Soybeans and Flax, distributed. Information furnished farmers on opportunity to purchase CCC wheat for livestock feed, with printed instructions on use wheat in livestock rations. County-wide training schools for women educational cooperators completed in every county; 16,484 cooperators trained. In addition, 565 urban cooperators (men and women) trained. Circular Victory Home Food Supply, containing guide to year-round food supply needed by family of 4, sent every cooperators additional supplies for farm families.

Extension Service held 12 district schools on soil conservation for county representatives AAA, SCS, FSA, and Smith-Hughes teachers; designed to help farmers meet goals without impairing soil resources. Conferences held with commissioners 25 soil conservation districts for discussion ways and means conserving soil. Actively engaged in mobilizing 4-H members.

MAINE (March 31).--Subject-matter meetings on Victory Gardens and fertilizer practices held.

Over 1,500 enrolled in poultry-management project; 30,000 copies circular, Poultrymen and National Defense, distributed. Assistance given poultrymen and AAA in connection sale of CCC wheat to farmers.

Farm adjustments, machinery, farm labor meetings held in five counties. Assisted in organizing farm labor committees in two counties to work with U. S. Employment Service; such committees to be set up in remaining counties during April.

In 14 counties "Tailoring Tricks" classes held to train community leaders in clothing; 36 classes held with 335 local leaders trained. These leaders have held 81 community meetings; attendance 1,219.

Extension editor handles publicity of Maine USDA War Board, State Nutrition Committee, and AAA. County agents broadcast regularly over 6 of Maine's 7 radio stations, material being sent them from State extension office. Bulletins and circulars include Maine Dairymen and National Defense, Maine Poultrymen and National Defense, Food for Health, Victory Gardens. Over 157,000 copies distributed to farmers and their families.

MARYLAND (April 1).--State-wide Victory Garden program under way with assistant director of extension as leader. One-day garden school held in each county to which representatives of all interested organizations and agencies invited. Garden bulletin prepared and distributed; leaflets, garden stickers, and certificates of recognition to those having gardens planned. Program to continue through season with spraying and canning demonstrations and information on food preservation. "Minute Men" appointed in each county to give 10-minute talks on gardens before various gatherings. Adequate and proper nutrition being stressed as part of program.

6,000 farmers enrolled in "Home-Grown Feeds and Feeding" endeavor to increase production dairy and livestock products, with pasture improvement a special feature. Extension marketing specialist chairman of canning crops committee appointed by USDA War Board to conduct campaign with growers and canners to stimulate contracts and assure outlet for greatly increased acreage. Plans being made to mobilize labor for canning factories next summer.

Extension economist chairman of labor subcommittee of State Land Use Planning Committee, actively engaged, in cooperation with other agencies, in meeting labor situation. City high-school boys being organized and trained for farm work. Extension Service sponsoring course at Maryland University for women desiring to prepare for farm work. Thorough campaign conducted, under leadership extension engineer, to induce farmers to repair farm machines and implements and order replacement parts. ¹⁸"Farm machinery exchanges" being tried in several counties to obtain greatest possible use of available machinery. In cooperation with vocational agriculture teachers more than 50 machinery repair schools held with 1,500 attending.

In 4-H Clubs definite plans being made for projects that mean most in winning war, such as - gardens, producing poultry and other food products, helping to prevent waste, assisting in collecting waste materials, etc. Homemakers' clubs of Wicomico County contributed 100 stretchers to Civilian Defense. Gifts of feed bags provided the canvas, which was washed and bleached by local laundry. The women did the sewing. Poles were donated; volunteers cut them. Boy scouts trimmed and smoothed poles. Homemakers' clubs of Howard County furnished recreation room for soldiers at Camp Meade.

MONTANA (March 31).--County agents, planning committees and War Boards contacted in every county; these groups assembling information and holding local production meetings. A WPA project set up to assist in assembling county information.

Six district meetings of extension agents and AAA committeemen held to emphasize production through conservation. Message then given to farm operators at community meetings in practically all counties. Information on effective use of water in food production supplied all farmers on irrigated land. Subcommittee on labor initiated plans for thorough, practical analysis Japanese labor situation. 4-H Club Mobilization Week organized for April 5-11. The 7-point 4-H Victory program well under way in many counties.

forage-Livestock, 4-H Clubs--being carried simultaneously. 9,000 Victory leaders selected and 90 percent trained for participation in program. 34,416 families signed Victory pledges, which is about 30 percent of total sign-up expected. Pasture-Forage-Livestock program developing steadily. Farmers making out balance sheets to follow during year in growing sufficient and proper feed for livestock; 1,020 farmers filled out such sheets. Program considers growing hogs, sheep, and cattle to furnish meat products for men in armed forces as well as home folks; production dairy and poultry products; soil conservation, irrigation, and proper farm management.

Training meetings conducted by extension specialists in 40 counties for leaders women's project clubs. Emphasis on sugar savers and vitalizing Food-for-Victory program. County agents assisted at meetings and discussed early gardens. Leader training meetings for 4-H leaders held, stressing 4-H mobilization. Newspapers and radio programs giving best cooperation in publicizing Food-for-Victory program.

NEVADA (April 3).--Extension Director is vice chairman of USDA War Board. County agent is secretary of war board in each county. Extension specialists attend meetings of State Board in connection with plans for action in relation to four major problems--Food-for-Freedom; collecting scrap iron; farm labor; migration of California Japanese to Nevada farms.

County workers assisting in farm machinery and repair parts survey, Red Cross and county nutrition council activities, selection of possible sites for canteens, Victory Garden drive, emergency fire protection. Extension forester inaugurated farm fire hazard survey by 4-H Club members.

Extension nutrition specialist is secretary of State Nutrition Council, and member State Victory Garden Committee. Fifty women from 12 counties have completed nutrition refresher course inaugurated by Extension Service at University.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (April 2).--Extensive reorganization extension specialists' field activities discussed at emergency extension conference held at Concord, March 31. To save travel, increase service, specialists will travel in teams of 3 or 4, spending several days in a county and thus be better able to divide their services among neighborhood or "walk-in" meetings. Printed circular on rubber, machinery, labor and supplies situations going to all farm families.

Organization of county farm labor committees completed, each committee composed of representative U. S. Employment Service, county agent, a vocational teacher, and a farmer. Questionnaires being sent by committees to farmers to determine their labor needs. State War Board cooperating with State Department Education in preparing plan for use high school pupils in agricultural work this summer. Department Education will handle registration; Extension Service will carry information on plan to farmers. County agents distributing copies Yardstick for Farm and Labor Efficiency, prepared by extension farm-management specialist. Farm employer will fill out Yardstick blank with advice county agent and form will be submitted with registrant's questionnaire as evidence on request for deferment.

Community wood-fuel chairmen appointed in 90 percent counties, with 3 counties reporting 100 percent organization. Extension forester arranged with WPA for use crews not engaged in defense work to cut wood. FCA and FSA making credit available farmers to have wood cut for sale next fall. Holding series poultry meetings to cover adult and 4-H activities. Emphasis on maintaining high egg production with economical methods. Dairy meetings emphasized need for better pasture and forage crops; methods for overcoming hay shortage this spring; increased grain feeding. Yardstick of Good Nutrition cards, now being printed in 6 languages for distribution foreign-born population. Plans for 4-H Mobilization Week stressed.

NEW MEXICO (March 16).--Extension in cooperation County USDA War Boards held Food-for-Freedom rallies in counties; 2,200 attendance. Information given on increased production poultry, dairy and meat products, home gardens. Tri-county meeting of extension agents and vocational teachers held for discussion methods improvement dairy and poultry production, to be followed by community meetings. Indications production of eggs will exceed established goal. Extension poultryman worked out plan for marketing surplus eggs.

4-H Club program modified to include Food-for-Freedom 4-H Clubs for increased production essential foods.

County planning committees in over two-thirds of counties established subcommittees on farm labor. State subcommittee on farm labor also established with extension economist as member. Other county subcommittees' include post defense, nutrition, production goals. With approval USDA War Board, a committee composed representatives extension, AAA, BAE appointed for selection community committeemen in furthering food-production program. Such committeemen designated as Victory Councilmen are approved by USDA War Board and given certificate and informational handbook. 21 counties established Victory Councils.

Extension agents in 9 counties requested to render assistance in locating sites for test plantings guayule (rubber producing plant).

Publications on gardens, poultry, food and feed issued in both English and Spanish, and distributed throughout State.

PUERTO RICO (April 1).--Director of Extension is chairman War Board Committee on Production of Food Crops and Seeds. Intensive campaign being conducted throughout the Island to promote production foodstuffs. During March 248 meetings held with attendance 22,340. Also intensive campaign on health and sanitation. Director will make tour of Island during 4-H Mobilization Week to address 4-H members and assist in mobilizing rural youth. All agencies of the Department of Agriculture and of Insular Government are actively cooperating.

RHODE ISLAND (March 31).--Commodity committee groups met in Providence, discussion meeting production goals, adjusting extension programs. Poultry schools held in all farm-bureau districts, discussed price ceilings, release CCC wheat, disease control, management improvements. Farm-labor shortage will be alleviated by registration of high-school pupils.

Organized scrap-iron collection campaign to be held in 1 section of State to test effectiveness of method. Organized conferences for local nutrition committees held in 8 towns. More than 5,000 members of 4-H Clubs preparing for National 4-H Mobilization Week. Victory Gardens expected to exceed 5,000, emphasis on nutrition.

TENNESSEE (March 14-21-28).--Plans for food production, poultry, and early gardening; sign-up of cooperators in the Home Food Supply Program; salvage campaigns; machinery and equipment repair and reconditioning; first aid; relocation of farm families from Army cantonment areas; repair and remodeling of clothes; and similar activities to expedite Victory efforts foremost with extension agents. Greene County reports 1,000 families enrolled in Home Food Supply Program. Morgan County farmers ordering carload certified seed potatoes. Banks furnishing seed potatoes and fertilizer for 4-H Club potato projects. County Agent in Benton County assisted in conducting tour of farmers from Kentucky Dam area to look over available farms in county on which such farmers could locate. Through correspondence with county agents in adjoining counties and publicity in local newspaper, Saturday, March 14 was announced as "Trade Day" in Clarksville (Montgomery County) between tenants, sharecroppers, and farm laborers who will be forced to relocate from the Camp Campbell area. Farmers in Montgomery and nearby counties interested in getting tenants, sharecroppers, or farm laborers for this year, met to talk "trade." Some 300 people were present; 90 percent had some offer of a place to go. Additional "Trade Days" planned.

Food-for-Freedom leaflets, defense news releases, special radio programs, garden guides, farm machinery repair posters included in effort.

TEXAS (April 1).--Victory demonstrations holding interest of farm people. Panhandle counties organized for prairie-fire protection, State Highway Department cooperating. Ranchmen have agreed to provide fireguards along highways. School children will assist, and in one county school boards have given permission to haul boys to scene of fire in school buses. SCS to furnish some fire-fighting equipment. Crosby County reports arrangements made with county planning committee, WPA, and school officials to interest farmers in growing vegetables for school lunch rooms. Similar activities reported from other counties. Series of 14 meetings held Lubbock County to encourage growing of food; second series scheduled. Duval County War Board has placed in hands of producers a mimeographed review of community meetings for handy reference, in both English and Spanish. Mitchell County reports many farmers placing orders for repair parts. Machinery dealers cooperating. County agent in Cochran County attended meetings in every community arranged by Civilian Defense Council, and has assisted in sales Victory bonds and stamps. County 4-H Club members are 100 percent in purchasing bonds and stamps. Jackson County agent has set up a "Victory Calf" classification for 4-H Club boys to help in attaining goal on beef for slaughter and marketing. Calves will be marketed cooperatively and sale price will be made in defense bonds and stamps.

VIRGINIA (April 6).--Held meeting with Agricultural Committee State Bankers and developed Food-for-Victory program. Key banker each county to be member county board agriculture. Through regional and county meetings all bankers being informed of developments and plans.

Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs holding 8 district meetings to plan for Food-for-Freedom, health, conservation, housing, etc., for coming year. Excellent attendance.

144 Victory Garden meetings held by extension specialists working with county and home demonstration agents; attendance 7,500 rural and urban leaders who in turn are holding hundreds meetings over State. Tomato program under way, with 36 meetings; attendance 1,825 producers. Extension specialists going beyond rural contacts on garden program and explaining objectives to civic, urban garden, and other groups.

Assisting marketing eggs by finding outlets and arranging for SMA to take surplus. Stressing live-at-home dairy production with emphasis on providing own feed supply. All dairy councils in State contacted on promoting consumption more milk and milk products. All creameries placed squarely behind quality cream and butter program. Planning to put 400 pigs on one 4-H Club project.

WEST VIRGINIA (April 7).--Major emphasis on gardens, milk, poultry and eggs, pork and meat production; 6 conferences held to give details to county extension workers. All agricultural agencies such as FSA, SCS, Vocational and Home Economics teachers, cooperated in holding 1,250 neighborhood meetings in counties with attendance 25,000. At meetings each neighborhood elected local leaders for gardens, dairying, milk, poultry, meat production, general tasks (bonds, stamps, etc.) each leader having responsibility for subject represented. Leaders spent one day at county school to receive instruction, and more than 5,000 now active in stimulating production in their neighborhoods. Circular on suggestions to neighborhood leaders and neighborhood leaders' report blank prepared.

Prospect for 150,000 Victory Gardens. Garden work of all agencies correlated under direction extension workers in counties. Special seed package put up by seed firm for Victory gardeners; 40,000 packages purchased by Department Public Assistance for clients unable to purchase. Window stickers and recognition certificate developed. Better care and feeding dairy cows discussed at many neighborhood meetings. Farmers giving excellent cooperation in campaign for larger production poultry and eggs.

Nutrition program in counties moving forward, with much assistance from county health units, boards of education, and other agencies. Due to intensive campaign for collecting scrap material, estimated one-third such material on all farms has been marketed. Educational campaign under way in all areas on destructive forest and brush fires. Number counties have special committees on fire prevention.

